

Local Education Agency
Ad Hoc Workgroup Meeting
December 5, 2007 Meeting Summary

Location: Sacramento City Unified School District

ATTENDEES:

Name	Organization/Title
1. Liz Touhey	DHCS, Safety Net Financing Division
2. John DiCecco	Los Angeles Unified School District (USD)
3. Laura Baynham	Mendocino County Office of Education (COE)
4. Cathy Bennett	Sacramento City USD
5. Susan Bier	Konocti USD
6. Margie Bobe	Los Angeles USD
7. Sherry Purcell	Los Angeles USD
8. Anysia Drumheller	Butte COE
9. Sue Hamblin	Stanislaus COE
10. Brenda Higdon	Contra Costa COE
11. Michelle Cowart	Contra Costa COE
12. Margie Rollins	Sutter COE
13. Maryann Straub	California Department of Education – Healthy Start
14. Greg Englar	Sonoma COE
15. Cynthia White-Piper	San Bernardino City USD
16. Cathy Bray	Los Angeles COE
17. Kevin Harris	Navigant Consulting, Inc.
18. Marna Metcalf	Navigant Consulting, Inc.
19. Julia Hanke	Navigant Consulting, Inc.

Handouts

Each participant received a folder with copies of the following: Agenda, Project Status Reports (July-October), updated Rendering Practitioner section of LEA Provider Manual, claims processing issues overview from LEA Program website, updated Paid Claims Issues Matrix, Erroneous Payment Correction (EPC) Implementation Provider Notification Letter, EPC Net Adjustment spreadsheet developed by EDS, Estimated EPC Adjustment for Workgroup Members spreadsheet, and Navigant Consulting's PowerPoint presentation.

Purpose

The meeting was convened by the DHCS in partnership with LAUSD. The purpose of the Workgroup is to improve the Local Educational Agency (LEA) Program. The emphasis of the meeting is to strategize various goals and activities aimed at enhancing the Medi-Cal services provided on school sites and access by students to these services, while increasing federal reimbursement to LEAs for the cost of providing these services.

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Cost and Reimbursement Comparison Schedule (CRCS) Submission Deadline

The CRCS submission deadline of November 30, 2007 was delayed until further notice. This information is posted on the LEA Program website, and was contained in the November provider bulletin. A new due date has not been determined; DHCS is currently in discussions with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) on this issue and will notify LEAs once a new submission date has been determined.

Adjustment for 2005/06 Interim Rates

CMS has notified DHCS that 2005/06 rates will be subject to the cost-settlement process, which is specified in State Plan Amendment 03-024. In recent months, all LEAs received a \$0.96 adjustment from DHCS that initiated the reconciliation process. CMS has notified DHCS recently that they will require explanation of the methodology used to develop the adjustment. DHCS will begin work to develop this methodology and inform Workgroup members of progress in this area in future meetings.

Interim Regulations on Targeted Case Management (TCM)

CMS recently published a final interim rule with comments on TCM services. DHCS will review the preliminary regulations and comment to CMS. Once the comment period closes, CMS will publish final rules governing TCM. DHCS noted that the county-based TCM program will mainly be impacted by the proposed regulations.

Notice of Proposed Rule-Making, 2287 Update

The proposed federal rule (CMS 2287) would eliminate certain transportation costs and school-based administrative expenditures beginning in FY 2008-09. The National Alliance for Medicaid in Education (NAME) website (www.medicaidforeducation.org) includes comments from various groups on the proposed rules. DHCS personnel noted that there has been no indication from CMS as to when the final rule will be issued, although Indiana recently received CMS approval for its Administrative Plan.

LEA Workgroup Dissemination of LEA Program Information

Workgroup members discussed several approaches to disseminating information from Workgroup meetings to the LEA provider population. It was noted that having meeting minutes posted on the LEA Program website is helpful. Members also noted that the recent provider letter regarding the forthcoming EPC adjustment was a major communication improvement. Workgroup members expressed that additional involvement from the California Department of Education (CDE) would be beneficial, since many LEAs check the CDE website frequently. DHCS and Navigant Consulting, Inc. noted that they have initiated contact with the appropriate CDE personnel, and plan to use the CDE website and e-mail distribution to school superintendents to notify LEAs of the future CRCS submission date.

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Workgroup members expressed concern with disseminating information without DHCS guidance, especially on topics that are frequently updated. Members noted that it would be helpful to review the agenda at the end of each meeting and collectively decide what information should be shared so that a consistent message is delivered to LEAs.

Workgroup members were supportive of DHCS developing a one-page “hot sheet” for LEAs that would contain important LEA Program updates, as well as information on the LEA website and where to direct questions. Workgroup members could then direct LEAs to the website or copy the sheet and disseminate it to LEAs and vendors.

Action:

What: Develop a “hot sheet” of important LEA Program information and updates for posting on the LEA website.

Who: DHCS/Navigant Consulting, Inc.

When: ASAP

Licensing/Credentialing Requirements for Non-Public School Providers

Changes were made to the Rendering Practitioners section of the LEA Provider Manual to clarify licensing requirements for non-public school providers. These changes were published in the November provider bulletin and are available on the LEA Program website. Although the content of the manual remained the same, there is now detail under each rendering practitioner regarding licensing and credentialing requirements.

National Provider Identifier (NPI) Requirements

NPI implementation has been delayed until December 17th. Workgroup members noted no concerns regarding registering for or accessing an NPI.

Potential Upcoming Trainings

In numerous past meetings, DHCS requested that Workgroup members provide input on areas that might be helpful for future training sessions. Workgroup members noted that they will follow-up on this request and plan to compile a list of potential training topics via a survey to the Workgroup membership over the next several weeks. Members identified that a vendor training session would likely be a high priority.

Action:

What: Identify high priority future training topics.

Who: Workgroup members

When: Prior to next Workgroup meeting

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Claims Processing Issues

DHCS and Navigant Consulting, Inc. reported that progress is being made on the claims processing issues. Bi-weekly meetings between DHCS, Navigant Consulting, Inc. and EDS will occur until the claims processing issues are resolved. The Workgroup was presented with updates and status on all outstanding claims processing issues.

Action:

What: Update claims processing issues and dates of expected resolution (when known) on the LEA website.

Who: Navigant Consulting, Inc.

When: Not specified

Action:

What: Send Navigant Consulting, Inc. older TCM information regarding sharing a category of service between LEAs in a single county.

Who: Laura Baynham

When: ASAP

Action:

What: Add certain paid claims acronyms to website glossary.

Who: Navigant Consulting, Inc.

When: ASAP

EPC Implementation

EDS is scheduled to implement an EPC adjustment on January 3, 2008. This EPC will cover three issues: (1) overpayment due to claims paid at the incorrect FMAP rate, (2) overpayment for initial treatment services that were reimbursed at the maximum allowable rate multiplied by the number of units billed (rather than one maximum allowable rate regardless of the units billed), and (3) underpayments associated with billing code 96100 paying at the amended maximum allowable rate (rather than the initial/triennial maximum allowable rate). Workgroup members expressed concern with the upcoming EPC, including the need to receive beneficiary level information on the RAD so that LEAs can reconcile their internal accounting records with the net adjustment.

Action:

What: Post EDS Provider Notification Letter to LEA website.

Who: Navigant Consulting, Inc.

When: ASAP

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Action:

What: Discuss implementation concerns with EDS and provide feedback to Workgroup co-chairs.

Who: Navigant Consulting, Inc.

When: ASAP

New Services

Durable Medical Equipment (DME)

DHCS and Navigant Consulting, Inc. presented information to the Workgroup regarding research conducted on potential new services for the LEA Program. In prior meetings, the Workgroup noted that DME is an area of interest, especially as this may not require a State Plan Amendment. Workgroup members discussed potential issues with adding DME reimbursement to the LEA Program, including ownership and repairs of the device, funding streams, record keeping requirements, the use of equipment at home and at school, the Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) process and the scope of DME for LEA services. Members expressed interest that DHCS continue research in this area.

Other Services Likely Requiring a State Plan Amendment (SPA)

In prior meetings, Workgroup members have indicated that therapy assistants and personal care attendants are high-priority services to consider for future SPAs. DHCS and Navigant Consulting, Inc. provided the Workgroup with a brief overview of the requirements for these practitioners, as well as the availability of existing Medi-Cal fee schedule rates. In addition, the Workgroup discussed services provided by dietitians/nutritionists, physicians and autism teams.

Action:

What: Determine how local codes for dietitian services crosswalked to national codes.

Who: Navigant Consulting, Inc.

When: Not specified

Action:

What: Review potential national code modifiers that could be used to represent speech and psychology assessments conducted by an autism team.

Who: Navigant Consulting, Inc.

When: Not specified

Office of Inspector General (OIG) Update

Navigant Consulting, Inc. presented information on recent OIG audit findings in Utah, Minnesota, and Iowa.

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Annual Report Modifications

Workgroup members discussed the need to simplify the current Annual Report and remove information that is now required in the CRCS.

Action:

What: Draft potential edits to the LEA Annual Report.

Who: Sue Bier and Anyisia Drumheller

When: Prior to next Workgroup meeting

Future Workgroup Meetings

Conference call: Wednesday, January 16, 2008, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

In Sacramento: Wednesday, February 6, 2008, 10:00 am